IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of MAY 1 5 2003 MURAKAMI et al. Serial No. 09/482,731

Filed: January 14, 2000

Title: SOUND ABSORBING STRUCTURE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Atty Dkt. 249-230 C#/M#

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: H. Vo

Date: May 15, 2003

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of the reference(s) is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

| | This Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") is being filed within three (3) months of the U.S. filing date OR before the |
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| | c. Attached is a check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the less disclosed information. A duplicate copy of this Deposit Acct No. 14-1140 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. A duplicate copy of this |
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| \boxtimes | Relevance of the non-English language reference(s) is discussed in the present speciments. The reference(s) was/were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search |
| _ | report is attached for the Examiner's information. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language reference(s) appears in the Appendix hereto. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language reference(s) appears in the Appendix hereto. |
| 닏 | A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language released application No, filed, which is The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a |
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| | relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. Thus, Form F10 1443 is attached with the arrival and arrival arriv |
| | references. 37 C.F.R.1.98(d). |
| | Other. NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C. |
| | 00 North Glebe Road By Atty: Alan M. Kagen, Reg. No. 36,178 |
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| T | riodi riington, Virginia 22201-4714 elephone: (703) 816-4000 ecsimile: (703) 816-4100 Signature: |
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| *EXAMINER | | | J.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
| INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | | DATE OPRIATE | |
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| | | FC | PREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
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| | DOCUMENT | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | YES | NO ——— | |
| | 6-259082 | 9/1994 | Japan | | | Abstr. | | |
| | 10-121598 | 5/1998 | Japan | | | Abstr. | | |
| | 10-273938 | 10/1998 | Japan | | | Abstr. | | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.) | | | | | | | | |
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| | Life reference considered whether | | Source Control of the Application of the Applicatio | | | | | |

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.

Form PTO-FB-A820 (Also PTO-1449)